
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

May 2004

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Join a celebration of Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association's 25th anniversary by visiting an "Open Woods" site on Saturday, May 15th.

Visit a woodland site on Saturday, May 15

Nearly 60% of the forests in Wisconsin are owned by private individuals and families and about fifty of these landowners are hosting visitors to their woodland property on May 15. This "Open Woods" event is part of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA).

On Saturday, May 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., WWOA members around the state invite you to bring your family and a picnic lunch if you'd like and enjoy a hike in the woods, learn about woodland stewardship and visit with a natural resources professional.

Visit http://wisconsinforestry.org/activities_content_openwoods.html to find a location in your area or contact the WWOA office for more information at 715/346-4798 or nbozek@uwsp.edu

The 490,000 acres comprising the State Forest system are receiving dual certification from the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

NRB approves State Forest Certification

On April 28, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) gave unanimous approval to commit the 490,000-acre State Forest program to dual Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification.

Auditors accredited by the SFI and the FSC systems completed assessments of the State Forest System last fall and winter. Their reports included observations of exemplary management of the State Forests and minor corrective actions that would be needed. They therefore provisionally offered certification to DNR at a Council on Forestry meeting on March 18 in Madison. The Council unanimously recommended that the NRB approve a dual certification commitment. Now that the Natural Resource Board has acted, final contracts for the initial five-year FSC and three-year SFI agreements will be signed. For more information on State Forest certification, visit

<http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/certification/index.html>

In 1913, when the Star Lake Plantation was established, tree planting went against the grain of mainstream opinion. But the effort was a success and the plantation will be thinned for the 8th time as part of a June 6 celebration!

Star Lake Plantation to be showcased

The first plantation using seedlings from the first state forest nursery (established in 1911 at Trout Lake) will be the center of attention during festivities on the Northern Highland –American Legion State Forest on Sunday, June 6th. In addition to celebrating the historic Star Lake Plantation, the day will also include the dedication of a new accessible trail and a cookout lunch. Find details of the day online at:

http://wisconsinforestry.org/activities_content_starlake_20040606.html

Everyone is invited, but advance reservation and payment is required if you want to participate in the picnic (send a check made payable to Don Thompson for \$12 per person by May 22 to Don at 5630 Steeplechase Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597).

Forest Management Guidelines distributed

Forest Management Guidelines are intended to help forest landowners, resource managers and contractors conduct forest management activities in view of long-term sustainability and diverse forest resources.

The guide is built around practical, sound and generally accepted forestry practices based on the best available scientific information.

A new publication that provides land owners and land managers with voluntary guidelines they can follow to help ensure they are managing forestlands in a sustainable fashion was unveiled earlier this year and has already been widely distributed. Over 2,600 copies of the printed version of this new publication, known as Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines, have been distributed to forestry professionals, land managers, legislators and others involved in forest management. The distribution has also included about 1,500 copies of the publication on CD. Additionally, the [online](#) version has received numerous "hits."

The Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines do not represent new regulations. In certain areas however, the guide does refer the reader to specific state statutes that are applicable to a forestry-related practice. The publication outlines practical, voluntary, site-specific considerations that land managers and landowners should take into account in planning and executing forestry operations. Throughout, the guide emphasizes sustainable forestry practices. The CD version has references to dozens of additional natural resource publications. Orders can be placed for a free copy of the CD-ROM version by sending an e-mail with your shipping address and the name of the publication to Paul.Pingrey@dnr.state.wi.us.

Gypsy moth spraying to begin soon

"Gypsy moth populations in eastern Wisconsin are rising to outbreak levels and we expect that trees in many areas will be defoliated in late June," said DNR forest entomologist Andrea Diss. "Aerial spraying is intended to knock down gypsy moth populations to prevent defoliation."

The DNR gypsy moth suppression program will target 310 sites including about 51,250 acres for treatment this spring. Treatment areas vary from 20 acres to more than 1,000 acres. Aerial spraying is expected to begin near the end of May in 20 eastern Wisconsin counties in an effort to reduce populations of the gypsy moth, a non-native insect in the United States. The bacterial insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) will be used on most areas. The insecticide will be applied using a small airplane and will typically take place in the morning, though evening treatments are possible if the weather is right. In those few sites where endangered moths or butterflies are found, a viral insecticide specific to gypsy moths will be used.

The spraying program is organized and carried out at the request of local governments and landowners – who also provide assistance and contribute half or more of the expenses – attempting to curtail summer outbreaks of this destructive pest. DNR spraying will begin in the southeastern part of the state, in the Milwaukee metro area, and move northward toward Green Bay and area counties as the weather warms and the gypsy moth caterpillars reach the right stage for treatment.

Information on gypsy moth management and maps of the aerial spray areas are available by visiting <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov> – a new Website operated through the combined efforts of the DNR, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the University of Wisconsin Extension. DNR and DATCP also operate and staff a toll-free gypsy moth information line: 1-800-642-MOTH (6684).

"Wisconsin Forestry Notes" is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707
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